

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 03385 261152Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 SSO-00 AGRE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-06 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-02 HA-05 CA-01 SCS-06 EB-08 IO-14 /068 W

-----061749 261207Z /45

O 261133Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7965

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 3385

E.O. 11652: N/AT

TAGS: SWEL, ECON, SU

SUBJ: SUDAN: STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO FLOODS

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI SUMMONED SELECTED MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS MORNING JULY 26 AND PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO SEVERE FOLDS IN GEZIRA. HE SAID THAT OVER 500,000 PERSONS WERE AFFECTED, 100 VILLAGES DESTROYED AND 220 VILLAGES ARE BADLY DAMAGED. GEZIRA PROVINCE DURING PAST TWO DAYS HAS HAD 370 MM OF RAINFALL, THAT IS 2-1/2 TIMES LEVEL OF ANNUAL RAINFALL IN TWO DAY PERIOD. FLOODING IS WIDESPREAD, CANALS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND COTTON CROP WILL BE SEVERELY DAMAGED. HE SAID THAT CROPS WILL BE LOST ON ABOUT 1.5 MILLION ACRES OF 2.2 MILLION ACRES IN GEZIRA. THIS WILL HAVE PROFOUND EFFECT ON ENTIRE SUDANESE ECONOMY BECAUSE OF DESTRUCTION OF SUDAN'S PRINCIPAL CASH CROP.

2. NIMEIRI SAID THAT 100,000 FAMILIES ARE WITHOUT SHELTER. HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE ALREADY DEVELOPING BECAUSE OF LACK OF POTABLE WATER AND DEAD LIVESTOCK. IN MANY OF THESE VILLAGES, FOOD STOCKS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. RELIEF EFFORTS ARE COMPLICATED BY TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES INTO THESE AREAS. SUDAN HAS ALREADY COMMITTED ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO THIS DISASTER, BUT REQUIRES OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 03385 261152Z

3. NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY VICE PRESIDENT ABUL ALIER HAS BEEN FORMED TO COORDINATE ASSISTANCE FROM FOREIGN DONORS. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI SAID THAT HE HAS ALREADY MADE APPEAL TO U.N. SEC GEN FOR ASSISTANCE. CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WERE INVITED TO OVERFLY DISASTER AREAS TO EXAMINE SITUATION.

4. CHARGE WILL MEET WITH EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS THIS P.M.
TO DISCUSS DISASTER RELIEF.
MERRICK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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